

**The Honorable Jean Schmidt**

**Hearing of the House Government Reform Committee**

**Subcommittee on Federal Workforce and Agency Organization**

**Opening Statement**

**May 23, 2006**

Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this hearing on the reauthorization of the Office of Government Ethics (OGE). It is imperative that we carefully consider the issues related to this reauthorization, and I am looking forward to hearing from Ms. Glynn, the Acting Director of OGE.

OGE was established in 1978 by the Ethics in Government Act to provide leadership and guidance to the executive branch on ethics matters. OGE educates executive branch employees on ethics matters, issues regulations and opinions, provides oversight, attempts to prevent ethics conflicts, and resolves conflicts that do occur.

Fostering the highest ethical standards is of the utmost importance in our democratic system of government. We must do all that we can to ensure that our citizens have confidence in our government and our leaders. OGE's leadership is an important part of that process.

H.R. 4701, legislation introduced by my colleague from Cincinnati, Representative Steve Chabot, would extend the authorization of the Office of Government Ethics through fiscal year 2011. This is indeed a prudent use of our taxpayer dollars.

Again, thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing, and I look forward to hearing Ms. Glynn's testimony.

